

## **Assembly Concurrent Resolution No. 119**

### **RESOLUTION CHAPTER 52**

Assembly Concurrent Resolution No. 119—Relative to California Agriculture Day.

[Filed with Secretary of State June 12, 2012.]

#### **LEGISLATIVE COUNSEL’S DIGEST**

ACR 119, Galgiani. California Agriculture Day.

This measure would recognize the week of March 4, 2012, to March 10, 2012, inclusive, as National Agriculture Week, and would designate March 21, 2012, as California Agriculture Day.

WHEREAS, March 21, 2012, is designated as California Agriculture Day, a day of celebration to commemorate agriculture’s importance in our daily lives, its vital role in keeping Californians nourished and its role in keeping the state’s economy ranked as the eighth largest in the world; and

WHEREAS, The 2012 theme of California Agriculture Day is “Know Your California Farmer” to encourage Californians to know and celebrate farmers who grow the food we enjoy and share with others; and

WHEREAS, For more than 60 consecutive years, California has been the number one agricultural state in the nation, producing more than 400 crop and livestock products and accounting for approximately 50 percent of the nation’s supply of fruits, vegetables, and nuts; and

WHEREAS, The inexhaustible efforts of millions of farmworkers have contributed greatly to the success of the agricultural industry; and

WHEREAS, California’s agricultural community relies on a vital infrastructure that aids in the exclusion and early detection of plant and animal pests and diseases that impact public health, the environment, and commerce; and

WHEREAS, With less than 1 percent of California’s population engaging in farming and agriculture, each agricultural worker today provides for more than 100 other people, compared to just 13 in 1947; and

WHEREAS, Today’s agricultural industry offers over 300 challenging and rewarding career opportunities, from on-farm cultivation to food science and engineering; and

WHEREAS, Over the past five decades, advances in agricultural production have resulted in a drop in consumer spending on food products from 21 percent of disposable income in 1949 to approximately 9 percent today; and

WHEREAS, California is the nation’s leader in agricultural exports, shipping more than \$14 billion worth of food and agricultural commodities around the world; and

WHEREAS, California's agricultural industry constantly seeks to incorporate the latest scientific and technological production and marketing techniques to meet the demands of changing consumer needs and complex world markets; and

WHEREAS, Government-industry partnerships are continually being developed to improve quality and ensure safe handling practices on the farm, in transit, and during processing; and

WHEREAS, "California Grown" is a public-private partnership campaign that emphasizes our strong ties to the land, our neighbors, and our desire to restore pride in our homegrown products and our quality of work; and

WHEREAS, A broad approach to agricultural education is vital to ensure that California agriculture continues to flourish; and

WHEREAS, The California "5 A Day For Better Health" campaign, launched in 1988, was the precursor for the national "5 A Day" program, which spreads the message that healthy eating through the consumption of fruits and vegetables can reduce the risk of heart disease and cancer by as much as 30 percent; and

WHEREAS, It is appropriate for all Californians to recognize our farmers, farmworkers, and others involved in providing such a bounty to our nation and the entire world; now, therefore, be it

*Resolved by the Assembly of the State of California, the Senate thereof concurring,* That the Legislature recognizes and honors the men and women of California agriculture for their dedication and productivity by observing the week of March 4, 2012, to March 10, 2012, inclusive, as National Agriculture Week, and designating Wednesday, March 21, 2012, as California Agriculture Day; and be it further

*Resolved,* That the Chief Clerk of the Assembly transmit copies of this resolution to the author for appropriate distribution.